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From: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 1:11 PM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Subject: RE: Evidence Office

Yes, I can speak for myself being August 10 thru 14, Shirley, August 19 thru 28. Do you want the chemist plans too?

From: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 1:08 PM
To: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Subject: RE: Evidence Office

Betsy,
Are there currently any vacations planned?
Julie

From: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 12:45 PM
To: Salemi, Charles (DPH); Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Cc: Saunders, Della (DPH)
Subject: RE: Evidence Office

Hmmm...I would like some more time to think about this. I would prefer fewer days rather than shorter hours at any rate.

ELO

From: Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 11:57 AM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Cc: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH); Saunders, Della (DPH)
Subject: RE: Evidence Office

Julie, I think reducing the hours for the window in some way, (be it open fewer days, or shorter hours), would be beneficial. 1) it would allow more time for office staff to assist in retrieving data(cards, receipts). 2) It would allow for better staffing in the office due to vacations and sickness, 3) it would begin to put the onus on the other groups involved in the Forensic process. CBS

From: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 10:58 AM
To: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Cc: Salemi, Charles (DPH); Sprague, Shirley (DPH); Saunders, Della (DPH)
Subject: RE: Evidence Office

Thank you for the update. No this is really not a surprise - but yet another stressful consequence of the decision. I fully expect that we will soon be doing NO testing. I will express these concerns to the Commissioner and hopefully, we can get some assistance/relief.

We may want to consider reduced hours/days for the evidence window. M, W, F ? What do you think?

From: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 10:38 AM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Cc: Salemi, Charles (DPH); Sprague, Shirley (DPH); Saunders, Della (DPH)
Subject: Evidence Office

Hi Julie,

As the fall out from Melendez-Diaz continues I see a couple of problems starting to develop. As you know, only certain people are allowed to have access to the safe and act as evidence officers. Shirley, Gloria, (Steve for much of the last year), Della and I can function as evidence officers as need be. We know that Steve is gone, Gloria is mostly out on leave, and since Della and I have done primarily trafficking cases as chemists we are being summonsed left and right for court. That has left the burden on Shirley to do the bulk of the work at this current time. I see the potential that if she is out for her vacation, or has other needs, that the evidence window may have to be shut down during regularly scheduled hours. We just do not have the staffing to prevent this from happening.

In addition, as chemists are being forced to respond to many requests for data and also appear in court, they have hardly been able to analyze samples. This affects not only our backlog but also the expedited samples that are languishing due to insufficient staffing.

Just a heads up, I'm sure you are not surprised by any of this....thanks for all of your efforts to date.

Betsy